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Vol. 8 No. 15

August 19, 1988

On the Hill

Congress recessed for the Republican National Convention and for the summer on August 12. Prior to recess, Congress passed S.2560, The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988. Major provisions of the bill require:

- The Secretary to purchase \$120 million worth of additional commodities for distribution through TEFAP;
- That the food stamp allotment be based on 100.65 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in the preceding June for Fiscal Year 1989, 102.05 percent for Fiscal Year 1990, and 103 percent for Fiscal Year 1991;
- That state agencies issue one food stamp allotment to households applying after the 15th of the month, combining the benefits for the remaining portion of the month of application and the next month;
- That three cents be added for each breakfast subsidized under the National School Breakfast and Child Care Food Programs;
- That an additional education and training (E&T) program component be established for educational programs or activities to improve basic skills, employability, or job search ability;
- That E&T performance standards be established and implemented by April 1, 1991;
- That three-year grants to 10 states be authorized to conduct Farmers Market Coupon Demonstration Projects; and

- A payment accuracy improvement system be established to explore the current error-rate liability/incentive system.

The bill has not been presented to the President as of press time.

-Story by Frank Ippolito
Office of Governmental Affairs

FNS Library Takes a New Home

The FNS library is now located in the Office of Public Information on the eighth floor of the Park Center headquarters. Richard Dengrove and I are unpacking and reshelving. Service should return to normal shortly. The hours will remain the same--9AM to 4PM.

-Story by Renee Brown
FNS Library

Exercise Classes to Begin at POC

Another session of in-house exercise classes is about to begin. Two half-hour classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 and noon. They are designed to tone muscles without excessive perspiration, since we have no shower facilities. The classes are taught by instructors from the Wellness Center at Alexandria Hospital. The session will begin September 6 and will last for 10 weeks. The cost is \$30 (\$1.50 per class) and is due prior to the beginning of the session. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sharon Eldred in Room 806 or call 756-3035 by September 1. All payments should be made in cash, please.

And Now, More Pictures From the FNS Picnic...



"I don't care if Special Nutrition won the Olympics contest, Management was the best team," says Floyd Wheeler.



"Are you sure that knot won't come loose?," says Tim Murphy (standing left).



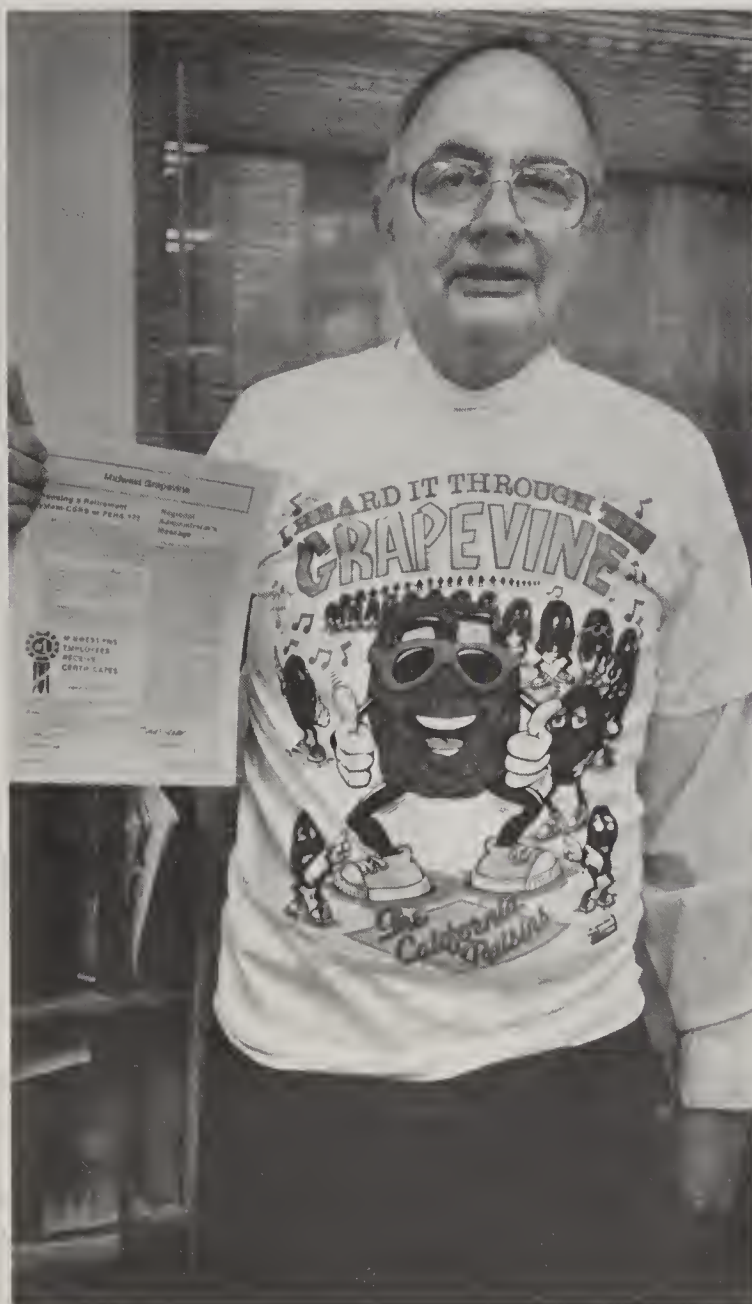
"The food really looks great," says Emma Ward to Ron Johnson.



"No," says little Jessica Davis to Linda Steele, "it's too hot to play anymore."

-Photos by Mary Morris and Charlie Okal

Dean Promotes MWRO Grapevine



Midwest Region nutritionist Robert Dean recently put the promotional shirt he won from the California Raisin Board to good use. He's now promoting the Midwest regional employee newsletter--which is called the Midwest Grapevine.

-Story and photo by Mary Jane Getlinger, MWRO Public Affairs Staff



Valerie Butler Receives Order of the Palm Award

Valerie Butler, Southwest Regional Office secretary, recently received the region's honorary Order of the Palm Award for her consistently high performance and contributions above and beyond the requirements of her job.

As secretary to Southwest Regional Director for Special Nutrition Programs H. H. Pullium, Butler has worked for the Food and Nutrition Service in Dallas for 15 years. She was previously employed for three years by the U. S. Air Force.

A native of Scarsdale, New York, Butler is a graduate of State University of New York in Cobleskill with a degree in secretarial science. She and her husband, Dennis, live in Plano, Texas.

Recipients of the region's Order of the Palm Award are selected by unanimous vote of regional program and staff directors. Since the award was first presented in 1982, recipients have been Billie James, Ron Warren, Marion Monk, Fred Pardue, and Juanita Stames.



Valerie Butler receives the region's Order of the Palm Award from SWRO Administrator Gene Dickey.

-Story by Blanche Jackson
Photo by Judy Snow
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

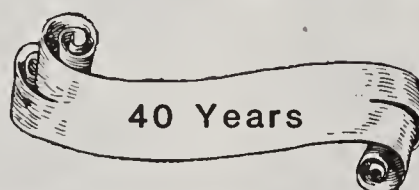
SWRO Honors Doloris Oldham Upon 40 Years of Service

Doloris Oldham, chief of General Services in the Southwest Region, was recently honored by her coworkers for 40 years of service to the federal government. Doloris began her federal career in 1945 as a GS-2 typist with the Navy Department in Washington, DC. After five years in DC, she moved to Dallas and began working for USDA. She has worked in federal food assistance longer than any other employee in the Southwest Region.

She's pictured here with SWRO Administrator Gene Dickey as he reads a special tribute to her. In the background is Al Blair, one of several former employees who returned to SWRO to help her celebrate her 40th anniversary.



-Story and photo by Blanche Jackson
SWRO Public Affairs Staff



Briefing Held to Improve Food Stamp Accountability



FNS Financial Management Deputy Administrator Jack Radzikowski briefed Mountain Plains staff on a pilot project to improve food stamp redemption and reconciliation accountability. MPRO Assistant Regional Administrator Brian Allison (left), Radzikowski, St. Louis Field Office OIC Fred Noyd, Grants Management Chief David Temoshok and MPRO food stamp staffer Frances Keen participated in the briefing. Temoshok will oversee much of the project's operation along with Jim Nohelte of his staff.

-Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Headquarters/Regional Personnel Training Held in Washington, DC

Regional personnel staffs joined headquarters staff for training in personnel actions and POIS (Personnel Operating and Information System). National Finance Center provided two of the five days of training. In addition to the personnel actions training, savings bonds and other pay documents were covered.



Seated left to right are Linda Wright, Personnel Division (PED); Lupe Gomez, SWRO; Margaret Jolley, SERO; Brooksie Spears, NERO; Cindy Green, PED; Norma Bradley, SWRO; and Kathy Tom, WRO. Standing left to right are Yvonne Johnson, MPRO; Kathy Teska, MWRO; Sheila Howell, MWRO; Mildred Kelley, PED; Carol Robinson, PED; Carletha Washington, PED; and Sarah Yates, PED. Missing from this picture was Audrey Olson, Minneapolis ADP Field Center.

-Story by Myra Sherriff, Former
FNS Personnel Division Employee
Photo by Larry Rana

USDA Management Council Meets in Chicago

USDA Management Council Chairman John J. Franke (center) talks with students and officials of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, which prepares students for careers in agriculture.

MWRO recently hosted USDA's Management Council Chicago Conference. The conference focused on equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. Public affairs staff arranged for speakers, including the Illinois Agriculture director and Illinois director of public aid, and sidetrips to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. The council also visited the Quaker Oats Company and the Motorola Corporation.



-Story and photo by Lawrence
Rudmann, MWRO Public Affairs Staff

ACE Swears in New Officers

Wilmer Mizell, assistant secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs, swears in officers to serve the Agricultural Communicators in Education for 1988-1989. Officers are (left to right): Vice President Nolan Kegley of FmHA, Treasurer Liz Lapping of FSIS, Secretary Eunice Bowman of FNS, and President Denver Browning of OGPA. The ceremony installing the officers was held at the June meeting of USDA's Public Affairs Council.



Eunice Bowman, program editor for State to State, the agency's Food Stamp Program newsletter, was recently elected to serve as secretary for the Washington, DC, chapter of Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE).

The international group's activities are aimed at improving communication skills for its broad range of members. It fosters communication research and education, evaluates land grant university and Department of Agriculture information activities, and encourages debate on public communication issues.

ACE is celebrating its 75th anniversary. It was founded in 1913 by a group of editors and educators as the American Association of Agricultural College Editors. In 1978, the name was changed to reflect more appropriately its current membership and to broaden its goals.

Bowman joined ACE two years ago and has been an active member. She has served on the publicity committee and as chair of the hospitality committee for the National Agriculture Communicators Congress. Approximately 800 agricultural communicators from across the Nation attended the July congress.

Before coming to the FNS national office, Bowman was public information director for the MWRO.

-Photo courtesy of Ag Reporter

Injury Prevention

Injuries are a major public health problem:

- Injuries kill more children than all diseases combined.
- Injuries are the leading cause of death up to age 44.
- Injuries from falls kill 7,000 older people each year.

After motor vehicles, falls kill more people than any other cause of injury. Most fatal falls--about 6,000 a year--happen at home, while another 4,000 occur in public places. After falls, fires kill about 4,000 people a year.

Below is a check list of suggestions to make your home and life safer.

1. Always use car safety belts.
2. Supervise children's play; keep them out of the street. Teach them how to cross the street.
3. Never leave children unsupervised in or near water, including the bathtub.
4. Install smoke detectors and check them monthly.
5. Plan and practice fire escape routes.
6. Post emergency phone numbers, including that of your local poison control center.

-Story by Bill Burke
Personnel Division



USDA Alumni Gather to Hear Secretary

(Story by Phil Fleming, Former FNS Public Information Director, and published in the July issue of the Ag Reporter.)

Secretary Lyng recently addressed the National Press Club, and Agriculture's alumni turned out in full force to support him. Among the public information specialists attending the luncheon were (standing left to right): Layne Beaty of Radio and Television Service; John Harms, ex-editor of the Kiplinger Letter, now with U.S. News and World Report; Ovid Bay, Extension; Phil Fleming, FNS; Sonja Hillgren, who covered USDA for UPI and is now Washington farm correspondent for Knight-Ridder newspapers; Don Looper, FAS; Ray Schleeter, Press Service; Giff Hoag, Farm Credit; and (kneeling left to right): Jim McMahon, ASCS; Ed Curran, the Farm Paper Letter; and Glenn Lloyd, SCS. Another alumnus was there--Berny Krug of REA, who brought his camera and took this picture.

MPRO Offers Technical Aid in Student Income Regulations

Prior to passage of the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1986, students were permitted to exclude only tuition and fees from Title IV student grants and loans when determining food stamp eligibility. The new amendments also exclude books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses.

Although MPRO states had implemented the new rule, Wyoming and South Dakota needed help explaining changes to workers and supervisors. Margaret Thiel of MPRO food stamp staff helped South Dakota staff create a worksheet for eligibility workers. In March, she and Duane Hjerleid--also from MPRO--went to Riverton, Wyoming, to offer technical assistance at a workshop for workers and supervisors, explaining differences in income and non-income and how to verify student income.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open	88-999	FNS
o Equal Opp Spec	(USDA)	GM-360	13	8/29/88	88-74	EEO
o Food Prog Spec	(FNS)	GS-120	11/12	8/29/88	88-76	SFPD
o Space Util Spec	(FNS)	GS-301	9/11/12	8/29/88	88-77	ASD
o Food Prog Sp	(A)	GS-120	11/12	8/29/88	88-76A	SFPD
o Prog Anal	(A)	GS-345	12/13	8/29/88	88-78	OAE
o Equal Emp Mgr	(USDA)	GM-260	13	9/12/88	88-79	EEO
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	5/6	8/29/88	88-80	IRMD
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	5/6	8/29/88	88-81	DAM
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	5/6	9/06/88	88-84	ASD
o Home Econ	(A)	GS-493	7/9	9/06/88	88-H-85	HNIS
o Prog Anal	(FNW)	GS-345	13	9/06/88	88-86	OAE
o Statistician	(FNW)	GM-1530	14	9/06/88	88-87	OAE
o Equal Opp Spec	(USDA)	GS-360	12	9/12/88	88-88	CR/EEO
o Economist	(A)	GS-110	12/13	9/12/88	88-89	PID
o Supvry Food Prog Sp	(FNW)	GM-120	13	9/08/88	88-90	CND

Office Location

FNS - Food and Nutrition Service
SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs Division
CND - Child Nutrition Division
EEO - Civil Rights & Equal Employment Opportunity
IRMD - Information Resources Management Division
DAM - Deputy Administrator for Management
ASD - Administrative Services Division
OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
PID - Program Information Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
(G) - Governmentwide
(L) - Local Commuting Area Only
(FNS) - Food and Nutrition Service
(USDA) - U.S. Department of Agriculture
(FNW) - Food and Nutrition Service Nationwide

Linda L. Boling, Editor
Mary E. Kennedy, Assistant Editor

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